

Media Advisory

Indiana Department of Correction Announces Opening of Nursery Program at Indiana Women's Prison

Indianapolis, Indiana (April 15, 2008)--The Indiana Department of Correction (DOC) recognizes the importance of the bond between a mother and her infant. To acknowledge the strengthening of this bond among mothers under DOC supervision, the Wee One's Nursery at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) will have its grand opening on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

The Wee One's Nursery permits eligible nonviolent offender mothers to reside with their infants in a special unit at the facility. Participating mothers are pregnant women scheduled to deliver while incarcerated and who will be released less than 18 months after delivery. The mothers agree to participate in additional child-related programming, such as child development and child needs, and are provided opportunities to develop their parenting skills and strengthen the bond with their infant children. The participants live with offender nannies in a unit staffed with correctional officers who have received additional training in child safety.

The Wee One's Nursery is the first of its kind in Indiana, and Indiana is one of only six states to have a prison nursery program. The program was funded by grants from the Women's Fund for Central Indiana and the Indiana State Department of Health.

DOC Commissioner J. David Donahue stated, "This innovative program demonstrates the commitment of the Department of Correction and its many dedicated professionals to programs that help better prepare offenders for re-entry into their communities. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our many community partners whose generosity, time, and money made this project a reality."

Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman said, "This unique program gives new mothers the opportunity to form a critical bond with their child in the first months of life. The nursery program requires women to participate in several parenting classes, a service that will teach them the responsibility of motherhood. I believe this will help the women go on to become productive members of society and good parents to their children."

Following remarks by IWP Superintendent Zettie Cotton, Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman and Jennifer Pope-Baker of the Women's Fund, invited guests and members of the media may tour the Wee One's Nursery.

WHAT: Grand Opening of the "Wee One's Nursery" at the Indiana Women's Prison

WHERE: Indiana Women's Prison (IWP)
401 N. Randolph St
Indianapolis, IN 46201

WHEN: Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. *

** Members of the media are asked to arrive at IWP no later than 9:15 a.m. in order to allow sufficient time for check-in at the facility and equipment set-up.
Please note that cellular telephones are not allowed in the facility.*

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